



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Manager signs decision for Community Pit Rock Quarry

LAS CRUCES – BLM Las Cruces Field Office Manager, Edwin Roberson, signed the Decision Record (DR)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for continued operation of the community rock quarry – Community Pit Number One – on May 12.

The decision for the quarry, which lies northwest of Las Cruces near the intersection of Rocky Acres and Shalem Colony Trail, is the culmination of 19 months of planning, meetings and environmental evaluations. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and DR/FONSI incorporate numerous changes to the original draft based on public comments and input received throughout the process.

“My decision was developed to find a balance between the needs of the community for the continued supply of rock, the concerns of the neighbors about the quarry, and the safety of the mining operation,” said Office Manager Ed Roberson. “We appreciate the extensive input we received and the fact that the public remained engaged since October 2003 through the entire process. As a direct result of this input, we made substantial modifications and we have what I feel is a more balanced decision.”

The BLM has decided it will be necessary to allow limited blasting to ensure a safe and effective mining operation. However, the blasts will be limited to no more than 12 per year, and BLM will monitor the blasting to minimize any impacts to the neighbors. A limit has been set for annual production (40,000 tons per year) and truck size (14 – ton limitation), which will result in a limit on trucks per day through the mine’s life. There has been a prohibition placed on the use of Jake brakes on public land.

The BLM will also monitor the mitigation measures to ensure they are effective. The Bureau will periodically get input from the local community on the success of the impact mitigation measures provided in this decision.

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